## CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓	Force	$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	Discourt.	U.S.
Edward Tsigel		Squad #04	202000469	 	Abuse	П	O.L.	_ Injury
		•		Ľ				
Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:			18 N	Ao. S	OL	Precinct:
Saturday, 01/04/2020 3:50 AM		West 158th Street and I Parkway 33rd Precinct Stationho	•		2/1	8/202	.2	33
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported	:	Date/Tim	e Rec	eived at CC	RB
Sat, 01/04/2020 4:01 AM		IAB	Phone		Fri, 01/17	7/2020	11:10 AM	Ī.
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	ess					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command					
1. POM Erik Cordova	10041	956548	033 PCT					
2. POM Ryan Felter	01002	953851	033 PCT					
3. POM Sean Holton	27883	954943	033 PCT					
4. SGT Alberto Pizarro	04293	934070	033 PCT					
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name					
1. POM Stefano Osso	30066	967237	033 PCT					
2. POM David Negron	04035	939108	033 PCT					
3. POM Matthew Prieto	24624	967267	033 PCT					
4. POM Sacko Hadzovic	23446	962458	033 PCT					
Officer(s)	Allegatio	on			Inv	estiga	ator Reco	nmendation
A . SGT Alberto Pizarro		at West 158th Street and an, Sergeant Alberto Piz (200) was an						
B . POM Ryan Felter		at West 158th Street and an, Police Officer Ryan I (200) was an						
C . POM Erik Cordova	Manhatta	Abuse: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Erik Cordova stopped the vehicle in which § 87(2)(6) was an occupant.						
D . POM Sean Holton		at West 158th Street and an, Police Officer Sean F						
E . SGT Alberto Pizarro		t West 158th Street and m, Sergeant Alberto Piz			in			
F . SGT Alberto Pizarro		at West 158th Street and an, Sergeant Alberto Piz- property.						
G . POM Ryan Felter		at West 158th Street and an, Police Officer Ryan I property.						

Officer(s)	Allegation	Investigator Recommendation
H . SGT Alberto Pizarro	Abuse: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro threatened to arrest \$87(2)(6)	
I . SGT Alberto Pizarro	Force: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro used physical force against \$\frac{887(2)(b)}{2}\$	
J . SGT Alberto Pizarro	Discourtesy: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(6)	
K . SGT Alberto Pizarro	Abuse: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro searched the vehicle in which \$87(2)(b) was an occupant.	
L . POM Erik Cordova	Abuse: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Erik Cordova searched the vehicle in which § 87(2)(b) was an occupant.	
M . POM Ryan Felter	Force: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Ryan Felter used physical force against § 87(2)(b)	
N . POM Erik Cordova	Discourtesy: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Erik Cordova spoke discourteously to \$\frac{8.87(2)(b)}{2.87(2)(b)}\$	
O . POM Erik Cordova	Force: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Erik Cordova used physical force against \$87(2)(6)	

## Case Summary

On January 4, 2020, \$87(2)(6) called the IAB Command Center and filed this The CCRB received this complaint on January 17, 2020. complaint via IAB Log# \$ 87(2)(6) On January 4, 2020, at 3:30 AM, \$87(2)(6) was driving his black Mercedes Benz sedan and was pulled over by Sergeant Alberto Pizarro, Police Officer Ryan Felter, Police Officer Erik Cordova, and Police Officer Sean Holton all of the 33rd precinct, at West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan (Allegations A - D – Abuse of Authority – \$87(2)(2) officers exited their vehicle and approached [87(2)(6) vehicle. Sgt. Pizarro pointed his gun at through the window (Allegation E - Force - \$87(2)(g) Sgt. Pizarro and PO Felter threatened to break § 87(2)(6) car window (Allegations F and G - Abuse of Authority -Sgt. Pizarro threatened to arrest \$87(2)(6) (Allegation H – Abuse of Authority – Sgt. Pizarro allegedly pulled \$87(2)(6) out of his vehicle, spoke discourteously to him, and pushed him (Allegations I – Force – \$87(2)(6) (Allegations J – Discourtesy – Sgt. Pizarro and PO Cordova searched \$87(2)(6) ■ car (Allegations K and L – was arrested and transported to the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct Abuse of Authority - § 87(2)(g) § 87(2)(b) stationhouse. arm and allegedly pushed him (Allegation At the stationhouse PO Felter bent \$87(2)(6) PO Cordova spoke discourteously to \$87(2)(6) (Allegation N – M - Force - § 87(2)(g) Discourtesy - \$87(2)(g) PO Cordova allegedly pushed \$87(2)(b) to the ground (Allegation O - Force - § 87(2)(g) § 87(2)(b) was placed in a cell and later released from the stationhouse. was arrested as a result of this incident and was released with a summons for running a red light and for failing to comply with a lawful order (BR 09). The CCRB received eight Body Worn Camera (BWC) videos (IA 45-52) of the incident at West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway and four BWC videos (IA 53-56) of the incident at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Precinct stationhouse. This case was originally assigned to Investigator John Guzman and was reassigned to Investigator Edward Tsigel upon Investigator Guzman's departure from the CCRB. Findings and Recommendations Allegation (A) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro stopped the vehicle in which \$87(2)(6) occupant. Allegation (B) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Ryan Felter stopped the vehicle in which occupant. Allegation (C) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Erik Cordova stopped the vehicle in which [887(2)(6)] was an occupant. Allegation (D) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Sean Holton stopped the vehicle in which was an occupant. It is undisputed that Sgt. Pizarro, PO Felter, PO Cordova, and PO Holton stopped [53(2)] in his vehicle at West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan. (BR 01) stated that he was driving on West 158th Street when an unmarked sedan began to follow him. Once he reached West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway the unmarked sedan turned on it lights and sirens and immediately cut in front of his car and stopped. He stated that he did not commit any vehicle traffic infractions prior to being pulled over by the officers. PO Sean Holton was not interviewed because the investigation was able to make a determination without a statement from him.

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Sgt. Pizarro (BR 02), PO Felter (BR 03), and PO Cordova (BR 04) all stated that SSTONO

ran a red light and was traveling at a high rate of speed but could not say the exact speed.

refused to stop his vehicle for approximately two blocks and 30 seconds when the officers initiated the car stop with lights and sirens. The officers cut in front of \$87(2)(6) vehicle to stop his vehicle. BWC footage from Sgt. Pizarro, PO Felter, PO Cordova, and PO Holton (BR 05-08) does not driving prior to the vehicle stop. From 3:50 to 4:00 of Sgt. Pizarro's BWC video (BR 05), the unmarked sedan can be seen positioned in front of \$87(2)(6) vehicle at an angle which blocks § 87(2)(b) vehicle. a summons for running a red light (BR 09). PO Felter issued § 87(2)(b) NYS VTL § 1111 (BR 10) states that vehicle must stop at a steady red light and remain stopped until the red light is no longer steady. NYC DOT Traffic Rules Section 4-06 (BR 11) states that no person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than twenty-five miles per hour except where official signs indicate a different maximum speed limit. Allegation (E) Force: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro pointed his gun at \$87(2)(b) Once Sgt. Pizarro (BR 02), PO Felter (BR 03), and PO Cordova (BR 04), and PO Holton stopped \$37000 vehicle, they all exited their vehicle and approached \$37000 Sgt. Pizarro approached \$87(2)(0) he drew his gun and pointed it at \$87(2)(0) through his car window. From 0:10 to 0:30 of Sgt. Pizarro's BWC video (BR 05), Sgt. Pizarro is seen exiting his vehicle after the car stop, drawing his gun, and pointing the gun at § \$7(2)(6) 0:10 to 0:25 of PO Cordova's BWC video 1/3 (BR 07) provides a different angle of Sgt. Pizarro drawing and pointing his is seen in his vehicle with his hands down and not visible. At exactly 0:22, Sgt. Pizarro points his gun at \$187(2)(6) then shows his hands and places them on the steering wheel. Sgt. Pizarro then immediately holsters his gun. Neither Sgt. Pizarro's nor PO Cordova's BWC footage capture audio for the first 30 seconds and the initial conversation between the officers and § 87(2)(b) cannot be heard. The footage shows that it was dark, and it was raining at the time of the incident. Sgt. Pizarro (BR 02) stated that he drew his gun upon approaching \$37000 because he feared for his and the other officers' safety due to \$87(2)(6) traveling at a high rate of speed, running a red light, and not stopping when the lights and sirens were turned on to initiate the vehicle stop. He instructed \$87(2)(6) to open his window and show his hands. He then pointed his gun at because he did not see seems hands and because he did not open the window. Sgt. Pizarro did not see \$\$ (20) have any weapons nor did he have any reason to believe that had any weapons in the vehicle, but he stated that \$3000 could have been reaching for a weapon when his hands were not seen. Sgt. Pizarro did not see \$87(2)(6) making any sudden movements while his hands were unseen or reaching for anything specific. then placed his hands on the steering wheel and Sgt. Pizarro immediately holstered his gun. People v. Finlayson 76 A.D. 2d 670 (BR 12) states that when an officer reasonably believes that an individual is armed or otherwise dangerous to the officer or others, they are allowed to frisk the individual. When a frisk is not feasible, the officer is justified in approaching the individual with their firearm drawn or at the ready. It further states that if an officer draws their firearm against an individual suspected of a petty offense, the intensity of the confrontation, in the absence of

NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01 (BR 13) states that the decision to display or draw a firearm should be based on an articulable belief that the potential for serious physical injury is

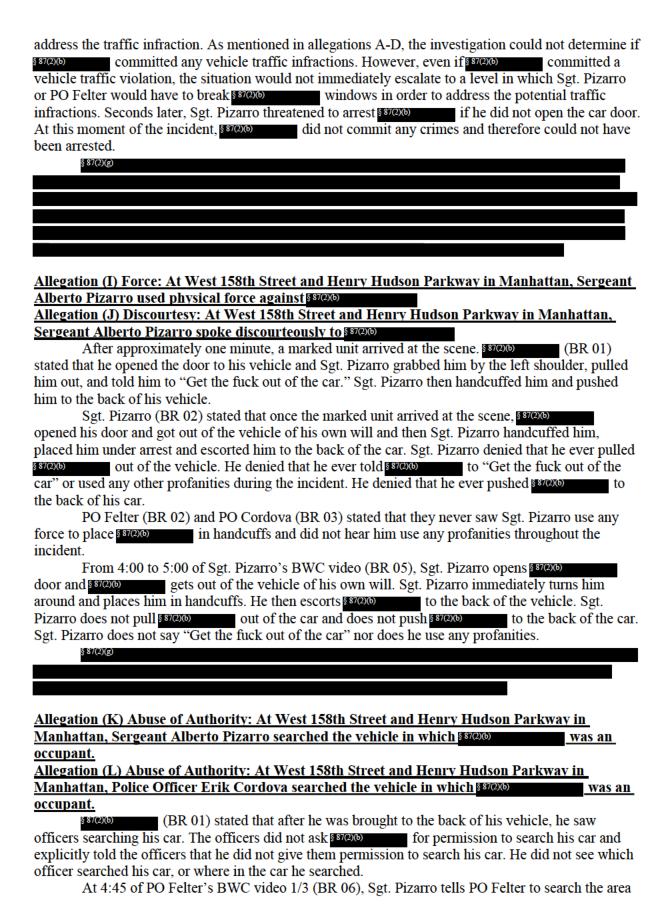
independent indication of danger, would be raised to a level well beyond that which could be

reasonably related to the surrounding circumstances.

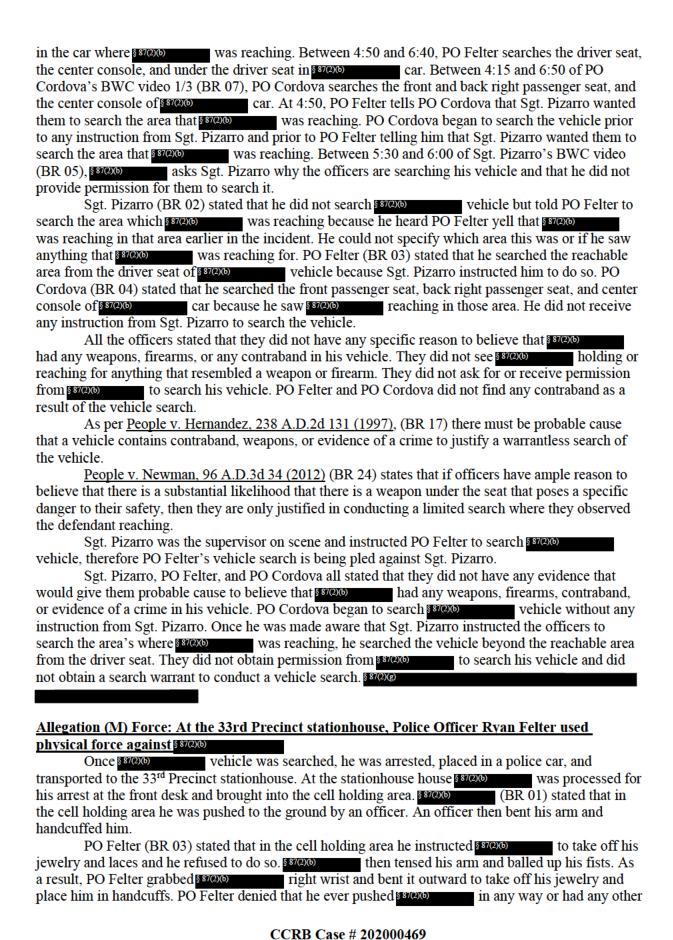
imminently present. Sgt. Pizarro drew his gun during the initial vehicle stop because of the vehicle traffic allegedly committed immediately prior. As mentioned in allegations A-D, the investigation could not determine if these violations were committed by (\$300) even if these violations were committed, the situation would not escalate to a level in which Sgt. Pizarro would have sufficient reason to believe that he or the other officers at the scene were in danger of serious physical injury. Additionally, Sgt. Pizarro pointed his gun at \$87(2)(b) because he did not see hands and because he refused to open his window. Sgt. Pizarro stated that he did not see hands, did not see § 87(2)(6) reaching for anything specific, nor did he have any articulatable reason to believe that \$87(2)(b) had any weapons in his car. The investigation credits that simply not seeing sar(2)(6) hands did not escalate the situation to a level in which Sgt. Pizarro would have sufficient reason to believe that he or the other officers at the scene were in danger of serious physical injury. By pointing his gun at §87(2)(b) escalated the situation and placed \$ 87(2)(6) at risk of being seriously injured or killed. Allegation (F) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro threatened to damage \$87(2)(6) Allegation (G) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Police Officer Ryan Felter threatened to damage \$87(2)(6) Allegation (H) Abuse of Authority: At West 158th Street and Henry Hudson Parkway in Manhattan, Sergeant Alberto Pizarro threatened to arrest [887(2)(b) (BR 01) stated that once the officers approached his vehicle Sgt. Pizarro told him to open his window or he would break it. Second responded that he did not feel comfortable with plain clothes officers in an unmarked car and requested that uniformed officers be called to the scene before he opened the window or exited his vehicle. [87(2)(6)] then called 911 and explained the situation to the operator and requested a marked unit to the scene. From 0:30 to 2:15 of Sgt. Pizarro's BWC video (BR 05), Sgt. Pizarro and PO Felter approach the driver side of second vehicle and tell second to open the door, or they will break his opens his window approximately one inch and tells the officers to call their commanding officer to the scene. \$87(2)(0) says that he does not trust the officers because they are not uniformed. Sgt. Pizarro tells that he is the supervisor and if he does not open the door then he will be arrested. Sgt. Pizarro requests a marked unit to the scene and repeatedly tells to open the door. Section calls 911 on his cell phone and says that he doesn't feel safe. hands are seen in plain view or on the steering wheel at this time. Sgt. Pizarro tells him to wait for the marked unit to arrive at the scene. 0:30 to 2:15 of PO Felter's BWC video 1/3 (BR 06) provides an additional angle of this and is consistent with Sgt. Pizarro's BWC. Sgt. Pizarro (BR 02) and PO Felter (BR 03) stated that they made the above mentioned threats because \$8000 was not complying with their orders to open his door and that they would be forced to break his window and place him under arrest if he continued to disobey the orders. Patrol Guide Procedure 208-01 (BR 14) states that a uniformed member of service may make an arrest for a crime when reasonable cause exists that the arrested person committed the crime. NYPD Patrol Guide 208-01. Onderdonk v. State, 170 Misc. 2d 155 (1996) (BR 15) ruled that police officers can damage property only if doing so is reasonably necessary to carry out their duties. When Sgt. Pizarro and PO Felter approached \$87(2)(6) vehicle, they immediately knocked on the window and told \$57(2)(b) to open the door or they would break the window. The officers immediately threatened to use force and break \$87000 window without attempting to

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physical altercation with him.
From 4:10 to 5:25 of PO Cordova's BWC video 2/3 (BR 18), PO Cordova, and PO Felter ask
to take off his jewelry and \$87000 refuses to do so. PO Felter grabs \$87000
right wrist and pulls it outward. [870] is seen tensing his arm and balling his fist. PO Felter
jewelry and then lifts \$87(2)(6) up and places him in handcuffs. 1:20 to
2:25 of PO Felter's BWC video 3/3 (BR 19) is consistent with PO Cordova's BWC and provides
another angle.
NYPD Patrol Guide Procedure 221-01 (BR 13) states that force may be used when it is
reasonable to ensure the safety of a member of the service or a third person, or otherwise protect life,
or when it is reasonable to place a person in custody or to prevent escape from custody.
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation (N) Discourtesy: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Erik Cordova spoke
discourteously to \$87(2)(b)
(BR 01) stated that in the cell holding room PO Cordova told him to "Shut the
fuck up" and called him an asshole.
From 5:45 to 6:00 of PO Cordova's BWC video 2/3 (BR 18), \$87000 is heard screaming
that PO Felter and PO Cordova are "Fucking [him] up." PO Cordova responds by saying "Nobody is
fucking you up bro." At no point throughout any of the available BWC is any officer heard telling
to shut the fuck up, calling him an asshole, or using any other profanities.
PO Cordova (BR 04) denied that he ever told sarous to shut the fuck up or called him are
asshole. He stated that he said "Nobody is fucking you up" as a response to \$870,00 making a
false claim and because he was thinking out loud.
Patrol Guide Procedure 200-02 (BR 16) states that the department is committed to treating
every citizen with compassion, courtesy, professionalism, and respect. Officers are expected to
maintain a higher standard of integrity than is generally expected of others.
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation (O) Force: At the 33rd Precinct stationhouse, Police Officer Erik Cordova used
physical force against \$37(2)(5)
(BR 01) stated that when he was placed into the cell an officer pushed him down
to his knees and he used an additional set of handcuffs to handcuff his (already handcuffed) hands to
the gate.
PO Cordova (BR 04) stated that once was placed into the cell, he began acting
belligerent by yelling at the officers with threats, pacing back and forth, and causing panic in another
arrestee in the cell. PO Cordova was concerned for the safety of the other arrestee, so he entered the
cell and asked [887(2)(6)] to sit on the ground near the gate to hand cuff him to the gate.
willingly kneeled near the gate and PO Cordova handcuffed him to the gate. PO Cordova
never pushed \$87(2)(6) in any way.
0:00 to 1:06 of PO Cordova's BWC video 3/3 (BR 20) is consistent with PO Cordova's
statement. PO Cordova enters the cell, tells \$87000 to sit down, \$87000 kneels willingly,
and PO Cordova handcuffs him to the gate. At no point is PO Cordova or any other officer seen
pushing § 87(2)(6)
§ 87(2)(g)

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## Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- This is the first CCRB complaint to which save has been a party (BR 21).
- Sergeant Alberto Pizzaro has been a member of service for seventeen years and has been a subject in twenty other CCRB complaints and fifty-six allegations, of which five were substantiated.
  - 201110628 involved a substantiated allegation of a vehicle stop against Sgt. Pizarro. The Board recommended instructions and the NYPD did not impose any discipline because the statute of limitations had passed.
  - 201310644 involved substantiated allegations of a stop, frisk, search, and physical force.
     The Board recommended charges. Sgt. Pizarro was found guilty of the stop and frisk and forfeited 6 vacation days.
  - O § 87(2)(g)
- Police Officer Ryan Felter has been a member of service for eight years and has been a subject in one other CCRB complaint and two allegations, none of which were substantiated.
- Police Officer Erik Cordova has been a member of service for six years and has been a subject in two other CCRB complaints and three allegations, none of which were substantiated.
- Police Officer Sean Holton has been a member of service for seven years and has been a subject in five other CCRB complaints and nine allegations, none of which were substantiated.

## Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories

- This case was not suitable for mediation.
- As of May 27, 2020, the New York City Office of the Comptroller has no record of a Notice of Claim being filed regarding this complaint (BR 22).

● [§ 87(2)(b)] [§§ 86(1	3)&(4)] [§ 87(2)(c)]							
Squad No.:	4							
Investigator:	Edward Tsigel Signature	Inv. Edward Tsigel Print Title & Name						
Squad Leader:	Raquel Velasquez Signature	IM Raquel Velasquez Print Title & Name						
Reviewer:	Signature	Print Title & Name	Date					